

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00097 071144Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----092477 071147Z /15/40

P R 061505Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6313
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 0097

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S TALKS IN RIYADH AND ASWAN

REF: SECTO 13091

1. MET PRIVATELY WITH ASSAD JANUARY 6 FOLLOWING HIS TWO-HOUR DISCUSSION WITH CODEL ZABLOCKI (SEPTEL) TO BRIEF HIM ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISITS TO RIYADH AND ASWAN, DRAWING ON REFTEL. ASSAD EXPRESSED THANKS FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S COURTESY IN PROVIDING BRIEFING. HE THEN REITERATED SOME OF HIS EARLIER COMMENTS TO CODEL NOTING THAT SYRIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE CAIRO CONFERENCE AND THE UPCOMING COMMITTEE SESSIONS WAS UNCHANGED. DAMASCUS DISAGREED WITH OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE CAIRO CONFERENCE; IT DOES NOT SEE THE ROUTE SADAT HAS CHOSEN AS ONE LEADING TO A JUST PEACE IN THE REGION. ASSAD NOTED CAUSTICALLY THAT SADAT WAS "NOW REFERRING TO ALL HIS MEETINGS AS FORMING
SECRET

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PART OF A PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR GENEVA, BUT OF COURSE, THE REALITY IS OTHERWISE."

2. COMMENT: THIS WAS A MINOR BUT USEFUL EXERCISE IN MAINTAINING CONTACT. THREE TIMES DURING OUR RELATIVELY BRIEF SESSION HE EXPRESSED HIS HIGH REGARD TO PRESIDENT CARTER, ASKING THAT I TRANSMIT HIS WISHES FOR THE

PRESIDENT'S GOOD HEALTH AND SUCCESS AND HIS APPRECIATION
FOR THE BRIEFING.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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